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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,210	03/19/2004	Douglas P. O'Connor	44933	6519
1609	7590	02/17/2005	EXAMINER	
ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P.			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
1300 19TH STREET, N.W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 600			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON,, DC 20036			2833	

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,210

Applicant(s)

O'CONNOR ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 18 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/03/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al.

With regard to claim 1, Huang et al (US D477,571) disclose (Fig. 1) a snagless telecommunications connector, comprising:

a connector housing having front and rear ends, and an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends;

a latch beam extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;

first and second ears extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing; and

a rib (a projection with trapezoidal cross section or gripped portion attached to the latch beam) extending outwardly from said latch beam.

With regard to claim 5, Huang et al disclose that said rib (the gripped portion) extends higher than said first and second ears.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-17, 19-20, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunz.

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With regard to claims 1, 12, 20 Kunz (US 5,494,457) disclose (Fig. 1) a snagless telecommunications connector, comprising:

a connector housing (14, 30) having front and rear ends, and an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends;

a latch beam (18) extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;

first and second ears (44, 46) extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing; and

a rib (20) extending outwardly from said latch beam.

With regard to claims 2, 13, 20, Kunz discloses that said connector is an RJ-45 plug (having 8 grooves) .

With regard to claim 3, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears (44, 46) are formed unitarily with said connector housing.

With regard to claim 4, Kunz discloses that each of said first and second ears are flush with one of side walls of said connector housing.

With regard to claim 6, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears (44, 46) extend from said upper surface above said latch beam (18).

With regard to claims 7, 20, Kunz discloses that said latch beam (18) and said rib (20) extend rearwardly between said first and second ears.

With regard to claims 8, 16, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears extend substantially perpendicularly from said upper surface of said connector housing.

With regard to claims 9, 17, Kunz discloses that each of said first and second ears is flush with a side wall of said connector housing.

With regard to claims 11, 19, 22, Kunz discloses that said rib (20) is unitarily formed with said latch beam (18) .

With regard to claim 14, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears (44, 46) extend above said latch beam.

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With regard to claim 15, Kunz discloses that said first and second ears are formed unitarily with said connector housing.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10, 18, 21 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the specific configuration of the rib having the portion being tapered toward a rear end of said latch beam

New corrected drawings are required in this application because the informal drawings filed in this application were acceptable for examination purposes only. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

02/10/05

Alex Gilman

**ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**